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**The situation in the Middle East**

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## Letter dated 5 November 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit to you the joint statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on Iran made at their working meeting in New York on 27 September 2012 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 and 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Byrganym **Aitimova**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

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## Annex to the letter dated 5 November 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

## Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the situation in Iran

New York, 27 September 2012

We voice our concern at the situation that is developing around Iran. Any attempts to solve the Iranian problem by force, given in particular the general instability in the Middle East and North Africa, are fraught with grave negative consequences not only for the countries in the surrounding region, directly adjacent to the area of responsibility of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, but also for the entire international community.

In these circumstances, we call upon all members of the international community to exercise the utmost responsibility and restraint and to avoid making statements or, still worse, performing actions that could unleash a further spiral of confrontation.

We are convinced that there is no alternative to the peaceful settlement of the issue surrounding the Iranian nuclear programme. We support the launching of a process of sustained dialogue between "the Six" and Iran, aimed at finding a mutually acceptable solution to the problem by unswervingly following the peaceful path of political and diplomatic negotiations.

At the same time we urge Tehran and all the parties involved in efforts to reach a settlement to step up the negotiation process in order to achieve progress.

We cannot accept an approach pursuant to which Iran is placed under unilateral extraterritorial sanctions far exceeding the limits prescribed in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and impinging on the legitimate trade and economic interests of States, including members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, which are conscientiously complying with these resolutions. We believe that such actions against Iran in response to its nuclear activities only complicate and impede the process of resolving the situation in a constructive manner.